

July 27, 1993

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5

Mary Beth Novy, RPM U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 77 West Jackson Blvd., HSRW-6J Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: SITE INSPECTION TO PAULA PENNOCK'S RESIDENCE AT 735 MERCURY DRIVE

Dear Mary Beth:

On July 23, 1993, I went to the residence of Paula Pennock at 735 Mercury Drive Albion, Michigan in the Amberton Village Subdivision. Ms. Penna had approached the U.S. EPA during the public meeting concerning an "odor" in her basement. Her concern was that the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill may be the source of the odor in her basement. I called Ms. Penna at work (Health Department) on July 22 to set up an inspection.

My inspection of the basement yielded the following information. The structure is a split-level home. The basement was separated into 3 rooms connected by a short hallway (see attached sketch). The stairs leading to the basement are open to the upstairs (there is no basement door). There are daylight windows in the lower level extending from approximately 3.5 feet above the floor to ceiling level, allowing for ingress/egress. Two of the three rooms are carpeted, wood paneled, and have a drop ceiling (consisting of ceiling tile). The other room functions as a utility room and is unfinished. It has a concrete floor and I noticed at least one crack in the floor. I also noticed a dehumidifier, however, I was informed that it is not working.

Ms. Penna's daughter indicated that occasionally during a rain storm, one of the upstairs windows leaks. The water will leak through the ceiling tile and into the basement. According to the daughter, they also have had a problem with bees in the basement in the past. She indicated that her mother sprayed a container of Raid in her bedroom to kill them.

I did not notice an odor while I was present; however, the daughter believed that the odor occurs intermittently.

Mary Beth Novy, RPM July 27, 1993 Page 2

I offer the following observations:

There is another split-level house closer to the landfill than this house. No other residents have approached the U.S. EPA concerning "odors".

If a soil-gas survey is performed, we may want to place some soil-gas probes in the immediate vicinity of this home. Because the odor is intermittent, we may not detect anything unless the "odor" is active.

Other possible sources of the "odor" include; residual pesticides sprayed in the home, wet ceiling tile, wet carpeting or just basically, a damp basement.

I also drove around the subdivision and noted which houses were split-level and which houses were of the ranch style. With this style of home, it was difficult to assess whether these homes had a basement or whether they were on a concrete slab. That sketch map is also attached.

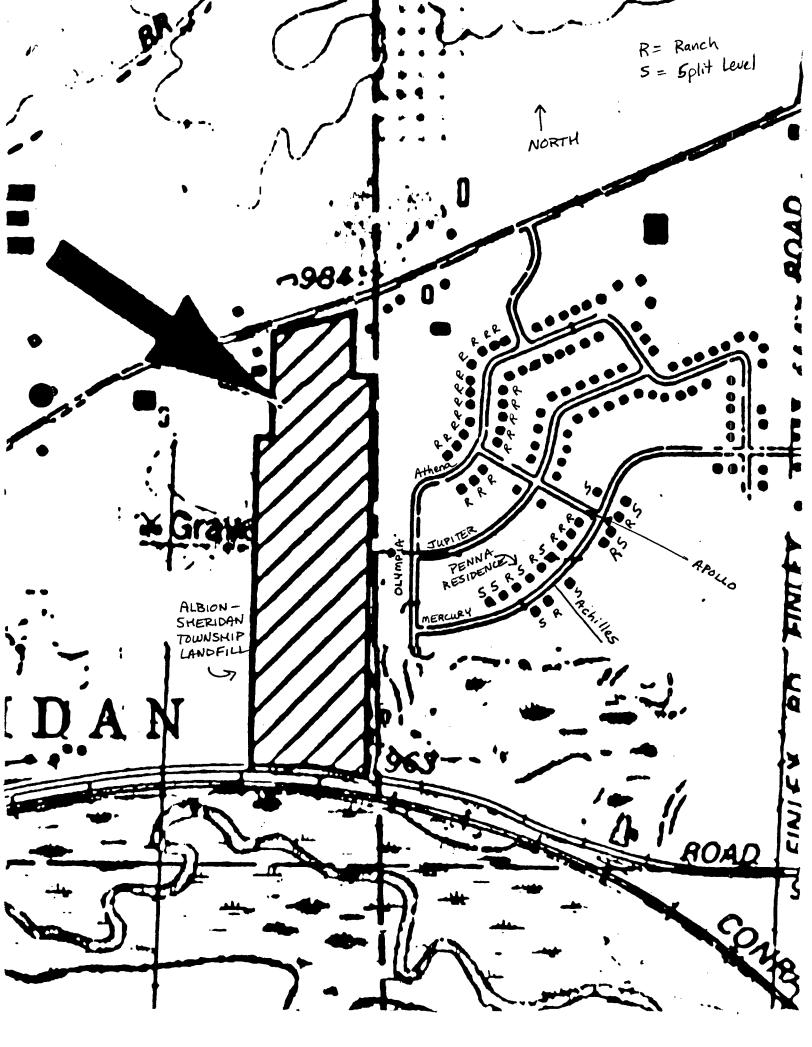
Sincerely yours,

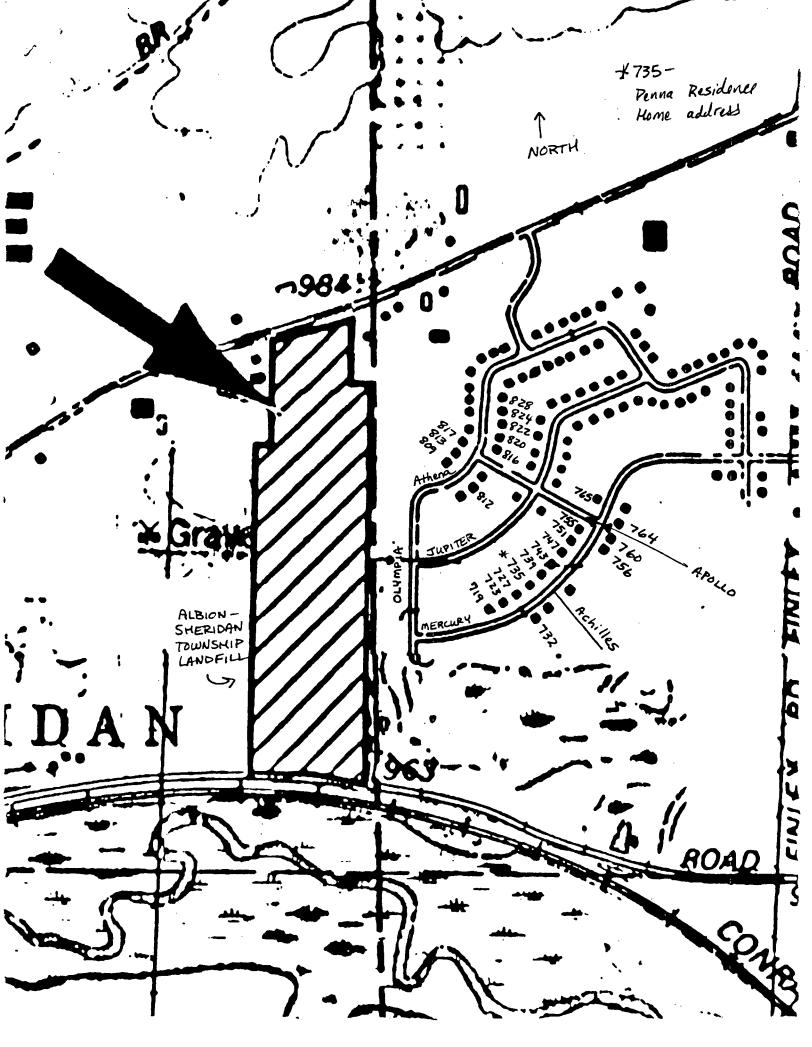
WW ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

Elizabeth Bartz

Site Project Manager

cc: 04011, 32





Calculation	n
Sheet	

Computed by	Subject		Sheet of
Checked by	Client	Job No	Date

Sketch of downstairs 735 Mercury Dr Penna Residence

Mercury	Dave	· :	
, : . · ·			
	/ STAIRS		
bedroom Family	HALL	Below	<del>o</del> n
Room	utility Room	en e	

Not to Scale